

**THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION: INTERIM VARIATION PENDING
THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

(Report by the Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Cabinet to consider interim arrangements relating to the Council's Scheme of Delegation pending the recruitment of a replacement Director of Commerce and Technology.
- 1.2 As Members will be aware the current incumbent of the post of Director will leave the Council's employment on 20th January 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scheme of Delegation comprises part of the Council's Constitution and consists of a schedule of powers delegated to Officers by the Council, by Cabinet and by various Panels and Committees, often after consultation with an Executive Councillor or a Panel/Committee Chairman. This report is concerned solely with the powers delegated by the Cabinet and Employment Panel.
- 2.2 Following the departure of the present incumbent of the post of Director of Commerce and Technology, the Cabinet and Panel are invited to consider appropriate interim arrangements in the event that powers delegated to the Director need to be exercised pending the commencement of duty of his successor.
- 2.3 The Council's financial Proper Officer functions are already delegated to the Head of Financial Services in the Director's absence and the Code of Financial Management contains a similar provision with regard to the administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Cabinet and Employment Panel are invited to consider interim arrangements with regard to those other powers delegated to the Director where there is not a similar existing delegation to a Head of Service.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Bearing in mind that the issue in any event will be time-limited by the appointment process for the Director and having regard to the relationships of Directors and Heads of Service in other instruments of governance, it is felt that the matter could be dealt with most conveniently as an interim measure by substituting the Chief Executive for the Director of Commerce and Technology wherever the latter term appears in the Delegation Scheme.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Interim arrangements are required to facilitate the discharge of responsibilities delegated to the Director of Commerce and Technology until a new Director is recruited.
- 4.2 The most convenient way of addressing the matter in the interregnum would be via the appointment of the Chief Executive for that purpose.
- 4.3 Accordingly it is -

RECOMMENDED

that, with effect from 20th January 2006 and pending the recruitment of a new Director, the Chief Executive be authorised to undertake the powers delegated to the Director of Commerce and Technology in the Council's Scheme of Delegation, with the exception of those relating to the financial Proper Officer and Section 151 functions..

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Background Papers: The Council's Constitution